

PRESS RELEASE
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Growing Statewide Coalition Plans Juneau Rally on Capitol Steps

Juneau – Great Alaska Schools, a coalition of over 1,500 families (and growing) of public school supporters is inviting all of Juneau to participate in a rally on the Capitol steps at noon on Friday.

The state's base student allocation, or BSA, has not increased since 2011, and Alaska's schools are suffering. Great Alaska Schools is calling on the legislature to pass a three-year increase to the BSA of \$400 for Fiscal Year 2015, \$125 for FY16, and \$125 for FY17. These scheduled increases will allow schools to catch up with rising operational costs and will help maintain reasonable class sizes by preventing additional staff and teacher layoffs.

The theme of the rally is PIE, and how the necessary funding increase to our schools is a very small slice of Alaska's fiscal pie. In fact, the \$400 BSA increase that Great Alaska Schools is calling for next year is **just half of one percent** of the current budget reserve! The budget reserve now contains \$17.1 billion. The budget reserves were created to fund priority items during lean times such as these, and we feel that education should be our state's #1 top priority.

We are asking Juneau community members to come to the Capitol steps on Friday, and if they would like, to bring a pie to share with our legislators.

In addition to pies, the Juneau rally lineup will include live music, short addresses by local students, business owners, and grass-roots organizers of Great Alaska Schools.

Friday's rally in Juneau is riding the wave of a hugely successful rally last Saturday in Anchorage, where nearly 1,000 public education supporters gathered to make smart-mob phone calls to legislators, sign petitions, and get excited about how to make a difference for every child in Alaska in the last few weeks of the legislative session.

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